

Lockwood-Cross Building  
314 King Street  
Alexandria  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-665

HABS  
VA  
7-ALEX  
135-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## LOCKWOOD-CROSS BUILDING

HABS  
VA  
7-ALEX,  
125-

Location: 314 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Present Owner: Demolished in 1968 by the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority as part of an urban renewal project in the old commercial center of Alexandria.

Statement of Significance: The building is one of the line-up of modest commercial structures that characterized King Street before the urban renewal projects of the 1960's.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Unclear, but likely between 1829 and 1852

On August 16, 1815, Anthony Crease conveyed to Thomas Mount the property later known as 314 King Street for \$5,250. At that time, an 1815 insurance policy shows a two-story wooden house on the lot fronting on King Street. The boundaries of the lot were:

Beginning on King Street at the middle of the east wall of the tenement now occupied by James R. Riddle and of that intended to be conveyed, said to be 104 feet 11 inches west of Fairfax Street;  
Then west on King Street to the west line of Anthony Crease's lot, said to be 18 feet 6 inches;  
South with said Crease's line and parallel to Fairfax Street 56 feet 7 inches more or less to any alley 15 feet wide;  
East on the alley and parallel to King Street 19 feet;  
North parallel to Fairfax Street the length of the fourth line;  
West parallel to King Street 6 feet 11 inches;  
North parallel to Fairfax Street 105 feet to the beginning.

On May 29, 1819, Thomas Mount and his wife sold the property to Hugh Smith for \$6,900. And on September 30, 1829, Smith and his wife conveyed it to Aquila Lockwood for \$2,700. The much lower price for the property may be explained, at least in part, by the destruction of other buildings at the rear of the lot in the fire of January 18, 1827.

On March 6, 1852, Lockwood sold the property to Richard Y. Cross for \$4,000. Lockwood, at the time he owned the property at 314 King Street, also owned the property at 316 King Street, to the west, which fronted 30 feet 10½ inches on King Street. The sale of the 316 King Street property by Lockwood was reported in the Alexandria Gazette of November 21, 1850:

We understand that Mr. Samuel R. Adams and Mr. George Bryan have purchased the two brick stores on King Street, lately owned by Mr. Aquila Lockwood, for \$8,000, and that they intend to enlarge, and throw them both into one, with a modern front, and will open, as soon as completed, a large wholesale and retail Dry goods establishment.

It seems probable that Lockwood had erected three brick buildings, one at 314 King, and two at 316 King, receiving \$8,000 for two in 1850, and \$4,000 for the third in 1852. Perhaps the new owner of 314, proceeded to restyle the front of his building too, since such improvements are contagious.

2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: Aquila Lockwood was the first owner; Richard Y. Cross the second. Subsequent owners unknown.

B. Bibliography:

Alexandria Deed Books A, p. 390; S-2, p. 339; N-3, p. 489.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Architectural character: The modest two-story, three-bayed structure, drastically altered at the shop front, reveals its probable original character at the second story.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Two stories, three bays.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick, common bond.
3. Openings: At the second floor three windows of six-over-six light are equipped with louvered shutters.
4. Roof: Flat with a cornice of a later vintage.

C. Site:

The building faces northward and is flush with the building to the east.

Prepared by Mrs. Hugh B. Cox of  
The Historic Alexandria  
Foundation  
July 1968  
Edited by  
Antoinette J. Lee  
November 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken in 1968 to document the commercial and residential buildings in downtown Alexandria which were to be demolished in an urban renewal project. The project was cosponsored by the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Hugh B. Cox was the historian and George Eisenman supplied the photographs. The material was edited and updated in 1975 by Antoinette J. Lee, working on contract for HABS.